

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 10, 2004 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 1-12 were pending in the application and all are rejected in the present Office Action. Claim 12 is herein deleted. Claim 1 is herein amended. No new matter is being added.

More specifically, claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Begala et al. (US Patent #5,185,062 or US Patent #5,595,629). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Both Begala '062 and Begala '629 describe processes for improving drainage and retention.

Begala '062 relates to the addition of high molecular weight cationic polymer and a medium molecular weight anionic polymer including ionizable sulfonate. Begala '062 does not teach, suggest or disclose cationic polymers having aromatic groups as claimed in the present application.

Begala '629 relates to the addition of an anionic polymer, which is a formaldehyde condensate of a naphthalene sulfonic acid salt, and a cationic polymer. Begala '629 does not teach, suggest or disclose vinyl addition polymers as claimed in the present application

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully requests that the present application be found in condition for immediate allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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